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Montrose Avenue bridge to reopen tomorrow

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that the Montrose Avenue bridge over the Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94) is anticipated to reopen, weather permitting, tomorrow, Tuesday, Aug. 24.

The \$16 million project involved removing the original concrete structure built in 1957, constructing a new bridge with wider sidewalks and a shared bicycle lane in each direction, along with modernized LED lighting under the bridge and over the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line station.

The original cast-in-place, three-unit concrete structure was removed one unit at a time over three weekends to avoid closing the expressway entirely and to minimize the impact to traffic. Access to the Blue Line station was also maintained throughout construction.

The south portion of the bridge was removed and rebuilt in 2020. As work finishes on the north structure, fence repairs and miscellaneous electrical items remain. In addition, intermittent lane closures will be required through late October as part of a resurfacing project on Montrose Avenue, from Central Avenue to Pulaski Road.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,535 miles of highway and 9 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Two included approximately \$5.2 billion of improvements statewide on 3,020 miles of highway, 270 bridges and 428 additional safety improvements.

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